

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group art unit: 3679; Conf. No.: 8348

Examiner: Gregory John Binda

In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Ryouichi TOKIOKA et al.

Serial No.: 10/590,570

Filed: August 24, 2006

Allowed: March 2, 2010

For: EXPANDABLE SHAFT

Atty. ref.: AI 422NP



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT AND  
CERTIFICATION UNDER  
37 CFR § 1.97(e)

May 13, 2010

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an information disclosure statement submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(d), i.e., after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Also, please find enclosed the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

Attached are copies of five Japanese patent documents, which were first cited on March 4, 2010, in a foreign Notification of Reasons for Refusal, issued in connection with the corresponding Japanese patent application No. 2005-268558. Any relevance of the document No. 61-28918 can be gleaned from the attached English-language translation of the document. The documents are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Also listed on the Form PTO-1449 are four U.S. patent documents Nos. US 2005/0257639 A1, US 2002/0169026 A1, and US 4,705,491, which correspond to the Japanese patent documents Nos. 2004-106599, 2002-340007, and 61-211527, respectively, and from which any relevance of the Japanese patent documents can be gleaned. Please note that U.S. patent No. US 4,898,566, which corresponds to the Japanese patent document No. 63-231010, is not being listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, since it was previously listed on the Form PTO/SB/08a/b submitted with the IDS filed on August 24, 2006.

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

A credit card payment form PTO-2038 in the amount of the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) also is enclosed. Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissionaire is hereby authorized to charge the fee, or credit any overpayment to our deposit account No. 18-0002, and is requested to notify us accordingly.

Consideration of the listed documents is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

May 13, 2010

Date

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